4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [, 2 or 3] in which the surface layer of the medium is from the surface to a depth of 10 cm.

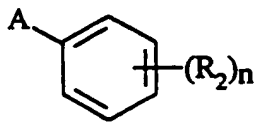
5. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 which comprises applying to the locus sequential low doses of isoxazole herbicide.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 which comprises treating the locus with a delayed release composition comprising the isoxazole herbicide.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 6 [or 7] in which an encapsulated isoxazole is used, comprising an isoxazole derivative encapsulated with a solid film comprising an inert material itself having no substantial herbicidal activity.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 8 in which [granules of an] the isoxazole derivative [derivate] is in the form of granules of from 0.1 to 50 μm in size [are used].

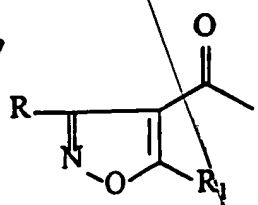
10. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 in which the isoxazole derivative is of general formula I [as hereinbefore defined]:



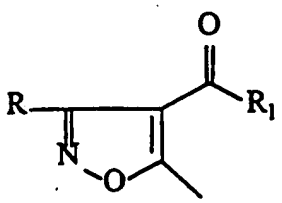
(I)

wherein:

A represents a group (A-1) or (A-2):



(A-1)



(A-2)

wherein:

R represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5, one or more halogen atoms or a group $-CO_2R^3$; or a group selected from $-CO_2R^3$, $-COR^5$, cyano, nitro, $-CONR^3R^4$ and $-S(O)_kR^{13}$;

R^1 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 or one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a

straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups -OR^5; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, -CO_2R^5, -$S(O)_pR^6$, -$O(CH_2)_mOR^5$, -COR^5, -$NR^{11}R^{12}$, -$N(R^8)SO_2R^7$, -$N(R^8)CO_2R^7$, -OR^5, -OSO_2R^7, -$SO_2NR^3R^4$, -$CONR^3R^4$, -$CSNR^3R^4$, -$(CR^9R^{10})_t$-$S(O)_qR^7$ and -SF_5; or two groups R^2, on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, -$S(O)_pR^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, =O (or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic acetal thereof), and =NO-R^3, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group -SO- or -SO_2-;

n represents an integer from one to five; when n is greater than one the groups R^2 may be the same or different;

R^3 and R^4 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^5 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^6 and R^7, which may be the same or different, each represent R^5 or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is

optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, $-NR^{11}NR^{12}$, $-OR^5$, and $-CONR^3R^4$;

R^8, R^9 and R^{10} each represent a hydrogen atom or R^6;

R^{11} and R^{12} each represent hydrogen or R^5;

R^{13} represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

k, p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two;

m represents one, two or three;

t represents an integer from one to four; when t is greater than one, the groups R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different;

or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof.

Please add new claims 14 to 17 as shown below.

- - 14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the isoxazole herbicide is selected from the group consisting of:

5-cyclopropyl-4-[2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-(ethylsulphonyl)benzoyl]isoxazole;

4-(4-chloro-2-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-5-cyclopropylisoxazole;

5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphonyl-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)isoxazole;

4-(4-bromo-2-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-5-cyclopropylisoxazole;

5-cyclopropyl-4-[4-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-(methylsulphonyl)benzoyl]isoxazole;

4-(4-bromo-2-methylsulphonylmethylbenzoyl)-5-cyclopropylisoxazole;

ethyl 5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphony1-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)isoxazole-3-carboxylate; and

5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphonyl-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)-3-methylthio-isoxazole.

15. A delayed release composition according to claim 11, wherein the isoxazole herbicide is selected from the group consisting of:

5-cyclopropyl-4-[2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-(ethylsulphonyl)benzoyl]isoxazole;

4-(4-chloro-2-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-5-cyclopropylisoxazole;

5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphonyl-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)isoxazole;

4-(4-bromo-2-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-5-cyclopropylisoxazole;

5-cyclopropyl-4-[4-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-(methylsulphonyl)benzoyl]isoxazole;

4-(4-bromo-2-methylsulphonylmethylbenzoyl)-5-cyclopropylisoxazole;

ethyl 5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphony1-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)isoxazole-3-carboxylate; and

5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphonyl-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)-3-methylthio-isoxazole.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein the isoxazole herbicide is isoxaflutole.

17. A delayed release composition according to claim 11, wherein the isoxazole herbicide is isoxaflutole.- -